

APPOSITIVES

An appositive is a word or group of words that renames or describes a noun or pronoun. An appositive is placed directly in front of or directly after the word it modifies. Appositives allow writers to eliminate unnecessary words and make their writing more concise. Study the following examples (the appositives are underlined):

Rita is a good friend of mine. She works as a police officer.

A good friend of mine, Rita works as a police officer.

Rita, a good friend of mine, works as a police officer.

Rita, a police officer, is a good friend of mine.

A police officer, Rita is a good friend of mine.

DIRECTIONS: Combine the following sentences by using appositives.

1. Ralph lives in my room. Ralph is my pet tarantula.
2. I could eat chocolate ice cream at every meal. Chocolate ice cream is my favorite food.
3. Alan got lost during the hike. He is a former Eagle Scout.
4. John is a bully, but he is a good football player.
5. My father will be visiting next week. He is a retired baseball player.
6. Johnson is a democrat. Johnson is running for mayor.
7. The teacher was a dedicated jogger, so he ran at least five miles each day.

PRESENT PARTICIPLE PHRASES (-ING WORD GROUPS)

A present participle phrase (-ing word group) can be used as a modifier; it can be placed in front of or after the word it modifies. Using these phrases allows a writer to combine sentences and to write with more conciseness and greater sentence variety. Study the following examples (the present participle phrases/-ing word groups are underlined):

The sparrow tried to keep warm. It fluffed out its feathers.

The sparrow, fluffing out its feathers, tried to keep warm.

Fluffing out its feathers, the sparrow tried to keep warm.

Trying to keep warm, the sparrow fluffed out its feathers.

The sparrow, trying to keep warm, fluffed out its feathers.

DIRECTIONS: Combine the following sentences by using present participle phrases.

1. The runner set his feet in the starting blocks. He stared straight ahead.
2. The diesel truck chugged up the hill, and it spewed out black smoke.
3. The janitor started the boiler. He checked the gauges carefully.
4. Jim left the house in a hurry, and he slammed the door behind him.
5. Jay practiced the piano daily. He hoped to be a famous entertainer.
6. The teenagers stood on the corner. They waved at the passing cars.
7. Jan listened carefully to the lecture, and she took accurate notes.